in the words of the late Dewan Bahadur Nagamiah. In his State Manual, he says "For one reason or another, the ryot is obliged to borrow, a necessity which even the best of them cannot avoid; and the cultivator when he looks into his accounts will find that he has not a balance of even one sixteenth of a measure of paddy to his credit". This type of ryot has to feed and clothe a family and to provide for the education of his children, and pay the doctor, in case of illness. The ryot, therefore, stands in need of every support that the Government can give. I would appeal to you, sir, to go into the interior of the country and satisfy yourself whether Nagamiah's words uttered 14 years ago, are not true to this day. You should try to see the average ryot, at his daily work, an individual under-fed, and clothed in rags. The usual concourse of the better class of people, well fed and well clad who are arranged to meet the Dewan in his tours will never convey an adequate conception of the poverty of the people. I would therefore submit with all earnestness I can command, that a committee of officials and non-officials should soon be appointed to consider the question of increasing the food supply in the country. The G. O. I referred to above simply accepts the opinion of the Conservator that no more lands could be disafforested without prejudice to the Forests. With great deference, I would submit that this should not be accepted as the last word on the subject.

HEAD XVII B (*m*).

The Department of Industries.

The allotment to this Department is very meagre. The amount allowed is Rs. 56,300. Of this, nearly Rs. 22,000 come in for establishment charges. Furniture and office contingencies come to Rs. 8,000 nearly. There remain only Rs. 26,000 for capital investment on Industries, including a sum of Rs. 9,000, earmarked for scholarships and stipends. This shows that the Department, under existing conditions, is a mere show. Funds ought to be provided for Industrial Exhibitions every year and for prizes to be given at such exhibitions. State aid should be given for main and useful industries. The raw materials of the country should be utilized to enhance the wealth of the country. Tanning industry is full of possibilities in Travancore. Hides worth between 2 and 3 lakhs of rupees are exported from the country. These exports do not appear to bring in any considerable revenue. If action is taken on the lines of what is done by the Cochin Darbar, the industrial extension can be assured. The sum of Rs. 9,000 sanctioned for scholarships is too small. There should be for this purpose a sum which will enable at least half a dozen students receiving training in industrial centres of Europe, America and Japan, so that when they come back the work of starting new industries and improving existing ones may be taken up. Sufficient funds should be set apart. In the matter of selecting two members for further studies in medicine giving them full pay and promotion over the head of their compeers, Government are incurring an expenditure. What I humbly submit is that this money could well have been utilised in developing industry in Travancore. For, I understand that there are people in the Medical Department who are not inferior to those now sent out and who are willing to spend their own money for further studies in medicine. These are matters, small though they be, which sometimes show that the care that is expected of Government in regard to matters of detail is not shown by them.

The Medical and Ayurveda Departments.

A much larger amount than what the Budget allows should be found for the Medical Department. Particularly in surgery, there has been a revolution, after the War. Up to date methods of surgical aid should be provided to the people and larger funds are necessary. Similarly for Ayurveda, the budget grant is quite small. I would suggest a scheme of licensing the Ayurvedic practitioners and vendors of medicinal herbs and plants, etc. The fees obtained by this system may be utilised for improving the work of this Department.

HEAD No. XVII.

Public Works.

I do not think I ought to take much time. Messrs. Krishna Aiyangar and Parameswaran Pillai have spoken elaborately on the subject. I would only place before the Council one or two features.

The outstanding feature of the Budget of this Department is the cost of establishment. The amount sanctioned for this Department is Rs. 28 and odd lakhs. On account of original works and repairs or maintenance, Rs. 23 lakhs is set apart. Establishment charges come to nearly Rs. 5½ lakhs. Thus to execute a work which costs Rs. 4 and odd, the establishment charges come to one rupee. This certainly is too much. Important works of public utility are postponed for want of funds.

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